

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 23 is withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to non-elected invention.

In the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to recite a medium with a base of at least one refractory oxide that is selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica and silica-alumina, wherein the at least one refractory oxide contains 0.1 to 10% by weight of at least one metal of group VIII, and 1 to 20% by weight of at least one metal of group VIB on the Period Table of the Elements. Claim 1 has also been amended for further clarity. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in the specification, for example, at page 8, second paragraph, and working example of the present application at pages 10-11.

No new matter has been introduced. Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-8, 19 and 22 are rejected under U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Taira (US 3,544,485).

Claims 10-13, 17, 18 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Taira (US 3,544,485).

Claims 2-4, 9, 14-16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Taira (US 3,544,485) in view of Maskill (Howard Maskill, Mechanisms of Organic Reactions, New York, Oxford University Press Inc., 1996, p.62).

Applicants submit that the above rejections should be withdrawn because Taira, either alone or in view of Maskill, does not disclose or render obvious the presently claimed hydrocarbon hydroconversion catalyst.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a hydrocarbon hydroconversion catalyst comprising a medium with a base of at least one refractory oxide selected from the group consisting of

alumina, silica and silica-alumina, wherein the at least one refractory oxide contains 0.1 to 10% by weight of at least one metal of group VIII, and 1 to 20% by weight of at least one metal of group VIB on the Period Table of the Elements; and at least one organic compound with at least one oxime group of the formula:



where R_1 is chosen from among a hydrogen atom, alkyl, allyl, aryl, alkenyl or cycloaliphatic groups, and combinations thereof, and one or more of said groups can be substituted by at least one electron donor group.

The hydrocarbon hydroconversion catalysts according to the present application are supported catalysts that contain low amounts of metal.

In contrast, the Raney alloys of Taira is constituted from metals, without any support, which is apparently different from the catalyst of the present application.

Taira discloses Raney alloys comprising aluminum and another metal M (Fe, Ni, Co or Cu) with an Al/M ratio from 7:3 to 1:1 (col. 2, lines 32-36). Taira discloses that promoter (comprising alumina and oximes) is added in amounts of at least 1/20 of the Raney alloy. Alumina is added in lower amounts than other promoters (col. 4, lines 37-48).

As shown in Table 1 of Taira and particularly examples 1-10 of Taira for which promoter is alumina, the weight ratio of metals (Raney alloys)/ total weight (Raney alloy + alumina), if calculated, is from 33 to 95%.

It is respectfully submitted that Taira does not disclose or teach a hydrocarbon hydroconversion catalyst comprising a medium with a base of at least one refractory oxide selected from the group consisting of alumina, silica and silica-alumina, wherein the at least one refractory oxide contains 0.1 to 10% by weight of at least one metal of group VIII, and 1 to 20%

by weight of at least one metal of group VIB on the Period Table of the Elements, as presently recited in independent claim 1.

The compositions of the catalysts of Taira are different from the claimed hydrocarbon hydroconversion catalyst of the present application. The behavior and advantageous of the supported catalysts as those according to the present application could not have been predictable to the person ordinary skilled in the art.

Maskill is relied upon by the Examiner as evidence that the reaction of hydroxylamine and a ketone is known to produce oximes. *See* paragraph 15 of the Office Action, at page 5.

Maskill does not make up for the deficiencies of Taira.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are patentable over Taira, either alone or in view of Maskill. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the forgoing §103(a) rejections of claims 1-22 are respectfully requested.

Allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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